

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 10528 301504Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DLOS-09 L-03 CIAE-00
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-----040723 310440Z /65
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9299
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
USMISSION GENEVA

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

GENEVA PASS LOS DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLOS SENV EWWT ENRG FR UK XG XT
SUBJECT: AMOCO CADIZ OIL SPILL - NEW FRENCH NAVIGATIONAL
REGULATIONS

REF: A) STATE 079984 B) STATE 081064

1. QUAI D'ORSAY (LACOMBRE, SHIPPING AND TELECOMMUNICA-
TIONS DESK OFFICER, BUREAU OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL
AFFAIRS) BRIEFED EMBASSY TRANSPORTATION/COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICER ON MARCH 28 RE NEW FRENCH NAVIGATIONAL REGULA-
TIONS, WHICH WERE HURRIEDLY APPROVED AT LAST WEEK'S
GOF CABINET MEETING AND WHICH WENT INTO FORCE MARCH 29.
PRESENTATION ADDED NO TECHNICAL INFORMATION BEYOND
THAT CONTAINED DMAHC 271943 Z MARCH. ESSENTIALLY, NEW
REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN BROUGHT INTO FORCE UNILATERALLY,
AND THEY BAN TANKERS FROM SAILING CLOSER THAN SEVEN
NAUTICAL MILES FROM BRITTANY'S WESTERN TIP. THEY ALSO
REQUIRE TANKERS IMMEDIATELY TO REPORT THEIR POSITION,
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PAGE 02 PARIS 10528 301504Z

DIRECTION, AND ANY OPERATING PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED
WITHIN 50 NAUTICAL MILES OF FRANCE.

2. HOWEVER, LACOMBRE DID ADVISE THAT GOF WILL SHORTLY
TAKE INITIATIVE IN IMCO TO HAVE ENGLISH CHANNEL
NAVIGATION LANES MOVED FURTHER AWAY FROM THE FRENCH
COAST. HE STATED THAT PRESENT LOCATION OF THE LANES

CLOSE TO THE FRENCH SIDE OF THE CHANNEL WAS CHOSEN IN RESPONSE TO SHIPPING INTERESTS WHICH WANTED THE SHORTEST ROUTE BETWEEN THE ATLANTIC AND THE NORTH SEA. FRANCE, AT THE TIME, HAD NO OBJECTION BUT IN THE LIGHT OF THE AMOCO CADIZ DISASTER, IT CAN NO LONGER ACCEPT THIS LOCATION AND WILL SEEK IMCO AGREEMENT TO MOVE THE SYSTEM OF LANES FURTHER AWAY FROM ITS COAST AND TO THE CENTER OF THE CHANNEL.

3. WE HAD SEPARATE CONVERSATION IN BREST MARCH 25 WITH A UK COAST GUARD OFFICER, WHO HAD ATTENDED THE MARCH 24 MEETING BETWEEN GOF INTERIOR MINISTRY STATE SECRETARY BECAM AND UKG SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT DAVIS. SOURCE REPORTED THAT FRENCH SIDE HAD SOUGHT UKG DECLARATION OF APPROVAL OF NEW FRENCH REGULATIONS. BRITISH RESPONSE, HE SAID, WAS TO EXPRESS UNDERSTANDING OF POLITICAL SITUATION NECESSITATING FRENCH QUOTE EMERGENCY MEASURES UNQUOTE, BUT TO INSIST THAT, PRIOR TO ANY FORMAL POSITION TAKING, UKG WOULD WANT FURTHER BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH FRENCH AND A FULL PRESENTATION TO IMCO. UK SIDE SAID IT HOPED A COORDINATED FRANCO/BRITISH POSITION MIGHT RPT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

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